

Iron County Register.

BY ELI D. AKE.

OUR GOD, OUR COUNTRY, AND TRUTH.

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First-class Job Work is being turned out continually at the REGISTER Job Printing Office, at St. Louis prices.

Then and Now.

[From the New York Sun.]
There was a party pure and strong
Which, when the time and season bled,
Sprang forth as erst Minerva did,
Full armed, to fight a giant wrong.
Great souls and brave its course controlled,
Led by a homely, honest man;
It earned the name Republican,
And counted truth as more than gold.
The olden ties were torn in twain;
Vast was the fratricidal strife,
The loss of money and of life,
The wear of heart and nerve and brain.
That party proved its right to lead:
Its baffled foes confessed its way;
It led from darkness up to day.
It ruled the land that force had freed.
Years passed; the country's rich rewards
Were but as nothing in the sight
Of those who stole the people's right
And broke the Constitution's guards.
Years passed; corruption's work was done
When Lincoln, Seward, Sumner, Chase
Passed off, and who have filled their place?
Hayes, Garfield, Dorsey, Robberson!
Behold it now! That party lives,
If life exists in mere gangrene,
And in its leaders small and mean
The wish to rule alone survives.
Behold it now, so weak and low,
A prey to jealousies and fears,
And still in every breeze it hears
The people's fiat: It must go!

The Philosophy and Sublimity of Free-Masonry.

[A Speech delivered at Ironton, August 18th, 1883, to the Grand Masonic Celebration (colored), by the Rev. J. W. Jackson, of Ironton. About 1,000 people were present.]
Ladies and Gentlemen:—To-day we have the privilege as well as pleasure of viewing the living votaries and adherents of an institution whose original foundation lays firmly and surely far back in the ages of remote antiquity. There surely must be something intrinsically valuable and inherently sublime in any institution of man which can endure so long and remain essentially unchanged from its original constitution, while many and great have been the mutations and fluctuations of the world and of men since the laying of the corner-stone of Free-masonry. Great has been the conflict within the domain of the intellectual world concerning the philosophy of Nature and the realities of man's eternal destiny. Mighty minds have roamed the perplexing labyrinths of exalted thought, overturning and demolishing long cherished theories of the material and spiritual universes, and established others in their stead more agreeable to truth and reason. From these hypotheses have been evolved truths now held sacred by universal assent. But during all this period of change nothing has been discovered, either in mind or matter, that has impaired either the beauty, stability or sublimity of the ancient institution of Free-masonry. Since her birth she has ever been the friend and guardian of both material and intellectual progress, cultivating and improving the arts and sciences. From her ranks have gone forth to bless the world men of the highest and brightest genius and of the most exalted intellectual power and refinement. Men of all professions and callings: divines, statesmen, orators, philanthropists, philosophers, poets, etc., and from the rich and inexhaustible fountain of her genius have flown pure streams of peace for the disconsolate, comfort for the suffering, strength for the weak, and light for those who sat in darkness.
Free-masonry is an off-spring of necessity—the out-growth of man's highest natural desires—his perfected ideal of his highest and purest conception of the beautiful in human nature and morality. It is, exclusively, a materialized product of the esthetical faculty of our being—an inevitable outgrowth or development of an intuitive principle of our being; a principle which is, indeed, the ground of our cognition and appreciation of the beautiful in Nature and in Art. The sublime beauties of Masonry rest upon an elementary dictum of reason, and have their origin in the intuitive intelligence of our being. The grandest secrecy of Free-masonry is its subjugating and conquering power over the discordant and inharmonious elements of our being. Its highest and most exalted beauty consists in its power to mould unity out of diversity. It does not aim to centralize human thought; it does not aim to rob man, by any secret enchantment or magical device, of intellectual freedom. It enters not into the sanctuary of religious thought to deprive it of its own free choice. It knows no political creed or obligation under which men's consciences are bound. Its voice in matters of the State is so broad, free and comprehensive that all men, of whatever political proclivities, can freely and willingly

subscribe to it. Adherence to and love for established government and lawful authority, is its only requirement. It interferes not with man's religious opinion; its voice in religion is, "Let every man worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience;" which is, in reality, the only way in which He can be truly worshipped. But it is a remarkable fact that under its glorious and overspreading banner are found diversity of opinion blended into a unity of sentiment. Men of the widest differences of opinion in matters of religion and politics—two elements which, in the hands of extremists, give rise to the greatest troubles in the family and in the State—are there blended and cemented into a common brotherhood in which the hands of true fellowship are given, and heart beats love to heart. In this cementation lays the sublime beauty of Free-masonry. In what other institution of man do we see these necessary results so truly and beautifully realized? Free-masonry, being the product of human genius, meets man's highest natural wants and aspirations. Grounded in his nature, it also harmonizes with it. These principles of its superstructure are man's, and the institution itself is but the materialization of the highest and purest principles of being. Hence it meets his wants and desires. The material fabric of the institution was laid over 1,000 years before the birth of Christ, but the principles of its constitution are co-natural with the human mind. Free-masonry is perfected humanity. I mean not, by this phrase, to place it above the Christian religion. This I could not do. Christianity came from Christ, who came from Heaven. It is not, strictly speaking, of the earth and therefore earthly. It is the gift of God to man. Masonry is of man. As originally created man possessed the principles, inwrought, which gave birth to the institution. It is the mere product of his inborn conception of the beautiful in human morals, unaided by the Christian religion in the immediate person of Christ. It is the highest attainment of pure human thought on moral themes—the perfection of natural religion. The advent of the Christian religion did not destroy the cherished principles of Free-masonry. It is an observable as well as remarkable fact that for one to be a perfect Mason he must be a Christian. There is implanted in man a natural love of union, friendship, justice, honor, virtue, faithfulness and truth. These principles embodied may be called man's natural religion. These principles are so embodied in Masonry as to make a practical application of them in everyday life. May it live long to perpetuate these noble principles to the latest posterity.

Many are the attacks upon Masonry. Some hold it in contempt on account of its secrets. It is said to be a secret institution, and, in consequence of which, can not be right and ought not to be respected. Its secrecy is, in a great measure, its stability and the foundation of its prosperity. Many of its great beauties are some of its deep secrets. Rob it of its secrets you rob it of its beauty. These secrets of Masonry are what many condemn but all would like to see. The religion of Jesus Christ, is in a limited sense, a secret; and should men be taught to direct their attention to that account? He who would thoroughly understand it, must partake of it. The operations of the spirit of God in the heart is known only by those who have received it. Sad is the fact that to the great majority of mankind, it is a profound secret; and those who partake of it, must do so on condition. Masonry says to all, "Come;" but there are conditions upon which to come. All who comply with these conditions and requirements may partake freely of her benefits, secrets and beauties. God, Himself, is the secret of all secrets. We comprehend Him, and, indeed, comprehend Him not. "He moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform," and the mysteriousness of His being only solicits our more profound awe and reverence. The human mind is a secret. It works in solitary secrecy; it plans in secret. Man is a miraculous secret. "He is fearfully and wonderfully made." The union of the material with the spiritual in man, and the simple production of volition, are all profound and undiscoverable secrets. But who would destroy his own body, or curse it, because he knows not the secret of its creation and of its most common movements? But there are many things which tend to destroy or to injure the good name and fair fame of Free-masonry. Many there are who bow at her altar without possessing the indwelling elements of true Masonry, and by their bad morals

and intemperate habits bring reproach and shame upon our noble institution. Many, I am sorry to say, wear the Lamb-Skin, or White Apron, unworthily. Brethren, to this unpleasant fact we should keep an eye single. We should be more careful in future upon whom we confer degrees. Degrees only make members, but Masons never! "It is important," says an eminent Mason, "that the minds of the Craft be constantly called to the vital importance of a more thorough investigation into the character and qualifications of candidates. You cannot take a candidate, unless he be worthy and well qualified, and make him a Mason by conferring degrees. He must be a man, God-like; his vision undimmed by vice; his thoughts elevated; his reason bearing full sway, stamped with the Divine impress, or degrees will never make him a Mason. You may manipulate him and restrain him for a time, but 'truth is mighty and will prevail.' His true character will develop itself, and when too late you will find that you have either a pestiferous meddler or a useless drone." Degrees will not make a man a Mason, and create within him a principle which he did not previously possess. We were first taught to look at the heart for the principles of Masonry. Principles, eternal principles, firmly and surely implanted by God alone, can only make Masons. Degrees may make members, but "Deity alone makes Masons." In many ways we, ourselves, are to be blamed for the conditions of our lodges and the fidelity of our initiates. We should be more careful to practice the principles of Masonry. A Mason should be a model of temperance in all things. He should, indeed, be a total abstainer from those evils which corrupt morality and deprave the intellect. None should enter its sanctum sanctorum who is not and cannot be a true and faithful representation of its holy principles.

"THE LAMB SKIN."
"With emblem of all things pure
The Mason's badge; oh! let him keep it sure.
More ancient than the Golden Fleece by far
Or Roman Eagle. 'E'en more honorable than
the Star
And Garter or other order that we know,
Even King or Prince or Potentate can bestow
At any time except a Mason; he
Let every brother strive to keep it free
From stain thus worn a pleasure to himself;
An honor to the Craft, 'tis more than wealth."

It is asserted by many that Masonry cannot exist among colored men; that their "so-called Masonic Lodges" are clandestine and hence not within the range of universal recognition. This assumption is based upon the frivolous presumption that colored men are not "free born." In this intelligent age of the world it is well and proper that we confine ourselves to realities and not mere idealities. And in the discussion of this matter, it is right that we confine ourselves strictly to the former. If our opposers are inclined to "dodge" the real issue, we have no desire to pursue them. If they will meet us on the square principles of truth, and lay aside mere theories which have been exploded long ago, we will meet them willingly; for we, as true Masons, adhere to truth, believing it to be the first lesson taught in Masonry. If our opposers and persecutors would be more precise in their meaning of the expression "free born," we would know the better how to attack them. They simply make the statement, and there leave it in unsolvable indefiniteness. The world has grown out of that narrow intellectual range of thought in which assertions were taken for arguments and high-polished theories for eternal truths. The institution of slavery which virtually cursed the American continent for near two hundred and fifty years, is forever swept away. It was born in iniquity and founded in wrong and revolting injustice. It was a mere visionary assumption of power, having no right to its existence by either the laws of God, the laws of Nature, or the laws of man. The same may be said of slavery or involuntary servitude—except for the punishment of crime—in all ages of the world, in all its features, and in every clime. If slavery was right, if the institution of slavery was founded upon the ground of right—founded in the eternal and immutable nature of things—then, and then only, could it be truthfully said that a man born in slavery is not free born. But if the institution itself is the mere corruption of iniquity and injustice—if it has no right, divine or human, to exist, where derive its inherent virtue to permeate the blood of unborn babes and taint them with natural and lawful trammels of birth? An enactment, to have the authority and force of law, must be founded in justice and reason—its very life principle must be

derived from the Government of God—it must be in harmony with man's nature—it must bear the eternal impress of righteousness. We are willing and prepared to discuss this matter with our revilers upon a purely philosophical standpoint—from the standpoint of sound reason and good, common sense—and leave the decision to that universal jury, intelligent public opinion; and we do not fear that the jury would hang. Gen. Stringfellow, of Missouri, once said: "The veriest schoolboy must know, as a matter of history, that although slavery existed in all the States in not one of them was a law ever enacted to establish it." Speaking of natural freedom, Blackstone says: "This law of nature being coeval with mankind and being dictated by God Himself, is, of course, superior to all others, in obligation. It is binding over all the globe, in all countries, and at all times; no human laws are of any validity, if contrary to this; and such of them as are valid, derive their force, and all their authority, mediately or immediately, from this original." And again, "In a state of nature, we are all equal, without any other superior but Him who is the author of our being." A noble and honored statesman of this country once penned this sublime sentence: "All men are created free and equal." That men of freedom, claiming to be our superiors, can yet cling on to a mere idea so obsolete, and so offensively repugnant to the common sense of mankind, is to us a profound puzzle. The idea, itself, should be very carefully materialized into some form, if possible, and given to P. T. Barnum to place upon public exhibition as one of the most stupendous wonders of the nineteenth century.

Then again, we have yet to learn that Free-masonry is the exclusive property of any particular place or country. It is found in any one of the four quarters of the globe—Europe, Asia, Africa and America. It is the property of the uncivilized as well as of the civilized. It has its seat in human nature, and springs into being by the law of necessity. May the true principles of Free-masonry ever be cultivated by every fellow of the Craft.

Love God supremely and our neighbor (brother) as ourselves. Live not for ourselves only, but also for our fellowmen; and in the Celestial Sanctum Sanctorum our Divine Grand Master will bestow upon us a rich reward.

We understand that George M. Shaner raised about 2,885 bushels of wheat this year, which was an average of about 20 bushels per acre. We are also informed that he will seed about 160 acres in wheat this fall.—Cape Girardeau Courier.

There is doubtless more old corn in this county now than ever before at this time of the year, and the new crop will be enormous. Those who will have to buy are already figuring the price down to less than 30 cents, delivered; but it is hardly probable that it will get so low.—Jefferson Democrat.

TO THE WEST.

There are a number of routes leading to the above mentioned section, but the direct and reliable route is via Saint Louis over the Missouri Pacific Railway. Two trains daily are run from the Grand Union Depot, Saint Louis to Kansas City, Leavenworth, Atchison, St. Joseph and Omaha.
Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars of the very finest make are attached to all trains.
At Kansas City Union Depot, passengers for Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico and California connect with express trains of all lines.
At Atchison, connection is made with express trains for Kansas and Nebraska points.
At Omaha, connection is made with the Overland train for California.
This line offers to parties en route to the West and Northwest, not only fast and superior accommodations, but beautiful scenery, as it passes through the finest portion of Missouri and Nebraska. Send for illustrated maps, pamphlets, etc., of this line, which will be mailed free.
C. B. KINNAN, F. CHANDLER,
Ass't Gen'l Pass. Agent. Gen'l Pass Agent.

All kinds of plain and fancy job work done at this office cheap for cash.

NOTICE TO TAX-PAYERS!

I will meet the tax-payers of Iron county, Mo., in the several townships for the purpose of receiving taxes for the year 1883, and all back years, at the times and places below stated, viz.:
Dent township—D. S. Love's, September 3d and 4th.
Dent township—Goodland, September 5th.
Knolin township—Mrs. Robinson's, Sept. 6th and 7th.
Iron township—Bellevue, Sept. 11th, 12th and 13th.
Arcadia township—Ironton, Sept. 14th, 15th and 17th.
Union township—Des Arc, Sept. 18th and 19th.
Union township—Annapolis, Sept. 20th and 21st.
Liberty township—Liah Dunn's, Sept. 25th.
Liberty township—Polk's Store, Sept. 27th.
Tax-payers will please remember that this is for their convenience, and all those failing to meet me at the above times and places will have to call on me at my office in Ironton. You will also remember that taxes must be paid, and that I will collect them.
W. A. FLETCHER, Collector
of Iron County, Mo.
aug20/83